



Cornfield Project Update

Cornfield Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the Cornfield Advisory Committee will be held on July 31, 2003 at the Los Angeles River and Garden Center, Los Feliz Room from 6:30p.m.-9 p.m. Advisory Members will have an opportunity to review all public comments and assist California State Parks staff in crafting preferred alternatives for the second public General Plan meeting in early fall 2003. If any Advisory Committee member would like to assist with the Cathedral High School session please contact Sean Woods at (213) 620-6406.

Planning Process Continues: California State Parks hosts Children's "Park Visioning" sessions at Chinatown schools

As part of the Cornfield site's General Plan process, State Parks recently invited local school children in the Chinatown area to provide ideas and visions for the park. Two "brainstorming and design" workshops have been completed with 4th graders at Castelar and Solano Elementary Schools. As one young participant explained, "It is like making a park and if some people throw trash in your park, you say....Hey! I built this park!" State Parks is looking forward to completion of the park and young members of the communities becoming stewards. Over 100 students participated in the workshops and provided State Parks staff with a plethora of ideas and visions for the Cornfield site.



Student Workshop at Castelar Elementary



Students design 'their' park at Solano Elementary

As part of the presentation, State Parks staff provided the students with a brief overview and timeline of the rich cultural history surrounding the Cornfield site from Native American settlements to present day events. Students then formed "break-out" groups and worked together to draw features they would like included in the Cornfield site General Plan development. After brainstorming, each group was given an opportunity to give a brief presentation on their park concept. The picture to the left, is a sampling of some of the children's visions for the park:

- Fountains, lakes/ponds, swimming pools
- Tongva footprints to memorialize Native American settlement, Native American statue
- Cultural Museums to honor diverse history of site
- Park benches, barbecues
- Trees, butterfly gardens,
- Open space, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, playground, obstacle course, skateboard park
- Sea Cavern
- Concessions, snack bars
- Restrooms, lights, fencing
- Arcade, rollercoaster, zoo

State Parks staff has another scheduled "Park Visioning" session with high school students at Cathedral High School on July 3rd from 10 a.m. 12 p.m. Prior to this session, the history students will be required to read the *Cornfield Advisory Committee Recommendations Report* and make a brief presentation to State Parks staff on the history and significance of the Cornfield site. The students will then proceed with a brainstorming session similar to the elementary schools. The ideas and visions gather from these three "visioning" sessions will then be incorporated in the public comment record for the General Plan.

Some examples of student evaluation forms:

EVALUATION FORM

1. What was the most important historical event you learned today about the Cornfield Site? ~~Indian~~ *Indian use to live in Cornfield*
2. Discuss your ideas about what should be in a park. *Playground because there is no playground what all the children play, well water, bathroom*
3. If you had to pick one feature, what would you like to see in your park? *Wishing well*
4. How long does it take for California State Parks to build a park? *3 to 4 years*
5. What did you enjoy or not enjoy today when participating in planning your neighborhood park? *We decided to make a park*
6. Who are some of the people that have lived in your neighborhood over the last 100 years?

EVALUATION FORM

1. What was the most important historical event you learned today about the Cornfield Site? *The people who live there used to be Latino and other black people.*
2. Discuss your ideas about what should be in a park. *Basketball and sports.*
3. If you had to pick one feature, what would you like to see in your park? *Basketball*
4. How long does it take for California State Parks to build a park? *4 years*
5. What did you enjoy or not enjoy today when participating in planning your neighborhood park? *It taught me how to create.*
6. Who are some of the people that have lived in your neighborhood over the last 100 years?
7. Is there any other comment you would like to add?

EVALUATION FORM

1. What was the most important historical event you learned today about the Cornfield Site? *How racism didn't only happen to blacks it happened to people who weren't white.*
2. Discuss your ideas about what should be in a park. *Snack bar, boats, recreation centers.*
3. If you had to pick one feature, what would you like to see in your park? *Basketball court*
4. How long does it take for California State Parks to build a park? *2 years*
5. What did you enjoy or not enjoy today when participating in planning your neighborhood park? *I enjoyed ~~making~~ drawing our own park.*
6. Who are some of the people that have lived in your neighborhood over the last 100 years? *My grandma Jenny.*
7. Is there any other comment you would like to add? *I hope the park will look good.*

EVALUATION FORM

1. What was the most important historical event you learned today about the Cornfield Site? *When the Mexican made a pipe from the LA lake to where they live.*
2. Discuss your ideas about what should be in a park. *I think there should be no electricity in the park. (except for the water fountains and restroom)*
3. If you had to pick one feature, what would you like to see in your park? *The Lake*
4. How long does it take for California State Parks to build a park? *about 4 years*
5. What did you enjoy or not enjoy today when participating in planning your neighborhood park? *When I get to designed the park.*
6. Who are some of the people that have lived in your neighborhood over the last 100 years?
7. Is there any other comment you would like to add?